

Remarks and Claim Amendments

Claims 1-59 are pending. Claims 49-53 have been allowed.

Claims 1-48 and 54-59 were rejected in the instant Office Action. With this Amendment, claims 1-26, 30-48 and 54-59 have been canceled without prejudice as to further prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in other applications such as continuations, continuations-in-part and divisionals. Accordingly, claims 27-29 and 49-53 remain pending.

Claims 26-29 have been amended in independent claim format.

Rejection of claims for Nonstatutory Double Patenting

Claims 1-48 and 54-59 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,641,886 ("the '886 Patent"). With the foregoing amendment, claims 1-26, 30-48 and 54-59 have been canceled. With this Response, Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer over the '886 Patent, rendering this rejection moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-26, 30-48, and 54-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,011,772 (Rollhaus *et al.*). With the foregoing amendment, claims 1-26, 30-48, and 54-59 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

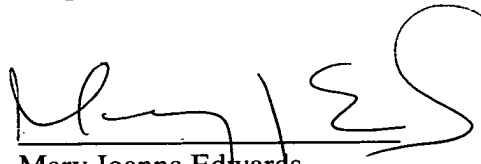
With the foregoing amendment, claims 1-26, 30-48 and 54-59 have been canceled. Applicants note that claims 49-53 have been allowed and that a terminal disclaimer has been filed, rendering the only rejection against claims 27-29 moot.

Therefore, Applicants submit that all claims are now in a condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and issuance of this application as amended herein. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this application.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this submission. However, please charge any fees that might be due or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,


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